

ALLIANCE PARTY

NOTES ON GOVERNMENTAL BRIEFING MEETING IN COMMITTEE ROOM 17
STORMONT BUILDING ON MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 1992/FROM JOHN CAMPBELL

CIRCULATION: PARTY LEADER(ALL DOCUMENTS)
DEPUTY LEADER(
GENERAL SECRETARY DOCUMENTS IN LIBRARY)
cc Messrs Dickson, Jones, McBride

ATTENDANCE

Government: Messrs Mawhinney, Fell, Semple
Alliance : Messrs Dickson, Campbell, Jones, McBride
Sdlp : Ms Ritchie, Messrs Haughey, Durkan, Farran, Fee
UU : Ms Bradford, Empey, Allan, Donaldson
DUP : Ms Paisley, Robinson, Wilson, McCrea, Vitty

INTRODUCTION

Mawhinney stresses that the purpose of the meeting was information purveying only; and that he would rule out any question of policy matters. He said that Fell and Semple would make visual presentations on their respective areas.

OVERALL MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT IN NI

See accompanying brief. Fell spoke for about 25 minutes. Afterwards a question and answer session with Mawhinney dealing with policy matters. All Alliance delegation spoke

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE IN NI

See accompanying brief. Semple spoke for about 20 minutes(same format was before). Question time restricted due to time constraints. Mawhinney refused to be drawn into debate about powers etc of new assembly

FURTHER MEETING

All agreed on usefulness of session. Mawhinney handed down date of next meeting-Thursday 5 March at 9.30 pm.
It was agreed that Relations between Local and Central Government would be the main agenda item, with Finance from EC second.

CONCLUSION

Useful meeting. Obvious DUP took meeting seriously- strength^{ht} and size of delegation. On other hand may reflect struggle for succession-it was interesting that McCrea lost interest when Robinson left after first session. Next meeting should be of particular interest to councillors involved in relations between local and central finance for example.